

Appl. No. 10/766,047

January 12, 2005

Reply to Office Action of December 17, 2004

PATENT

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JAN 14 2005**I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application, using strikethrough for deletions and underlining for additions:*

**1. (Original) A cargo apparatus comprising:**

a base having at least one end and at least one side, the at least one end having at least one laterally inside post extending therefrom, the at least one side having at least one laterally outside post extending therefrom, wherein the at least one laterally outside post is positioned laterally outside with respect to the at least one laterally inside post;

at least one end retaining bracket pivotably and translatably mounted to the base, the at least one end retaining bracket having at least one support leg and a retaining bar terminating the at least one support leg, the at least one support leg having a mounting end, the mounting end pivotably mounts to the at least one laterally inside post between open and closed positions and also translatably mounts to the at least one laterally inside post between an unlocked position distal the at least one laterally inside post and a locked position proximal the at least one laterally inside post; and

at least one side retaining bracket pivotably and translatably mounted to the base, the at least one side bracket having at least one support leg and a retaining bar terminating the at least one support leg, the at least one support leg having a mounting end, the mounting end pivotably mounts to the at least one laterally outside post between open and closed positions and also translatably mounts to the at least one laterally outside post between an unlocked position distal the at least one laterally outside post and a locked position proximal the at least one laterally outside post.

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2. (Original) The cargo apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least the base may be integrated with a bedliner of a vehicle.
3. (Original) The cargo apparatus of claim 1 wherein the base includes hook and loop fastener material thereunder for fastening the apparatus to another object.
4. (Original) The cargo apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of the posts has an internal periphery into which fits an outer periphery of each respective support leg.
5. (Original) The cargo apparatus of claim 4 wherein the posts and the legs are composed of square tube stock.
6. (Original) The cargo apparatus of claim 1 wherein the posts include rounded portions thereon to facilitate pivoting of the respective legs with respect thereto.
7. (Original) The cargo apparatus of claim 1 further comprising mounting brackets interposed between the legs of the at least one retaining bracket and the respective posts.
8. (Original) The cargo apparatus of claim 7 further comprising T-shaped fasteners extending through slots in the mounting brackets and into the posts.
9. (Original) The cargo apparatus of claim 1 further comprising latches attached to the one or the other of the at least one end retaining bracket and the at least one side retaining bracket to lock the at least one retaining brackets in a closed, collapsed state.

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10. (Original) The cargo apparatus of claim 1 further comprising at least one latch extending from a portion of the at least one side retaining bracket, said at least one latch interengaging with at least one lug of a corresponding one of the at least one end retaining bracket to provide stability to the cargo apparatus in an open position.

11. (Original) The cargo apparatus of claim 1 further comprising panels attached to the retaining brackets.

12. (Original) A removable, portable, collapsible storage organizer for a cargo area of a transportation vehicle, the organizer comprising:

a base having opposed first and second ends with handles and further having opposed first and second sides, the first and second ends respectively having first and second pairs of laterally opposed posts of a first predetermined height, the first and second sides respectively having first and second sets of laterally spaced posts of a second predetermined height that is greater than the first predetermined height, the base further having a third pair of laterally opposed posts and being of the first predetermined height;

a plurality of C-shaped brackets pivotably and translatably mounted to the base, the plurality of C-shaped brackets including first, second, and third C-shaped brackets respectively mounted to the first, second, and third pairs of laterally opposed posts of the base, each of the plurality of C-shaped brackets having a pair of laterally opposed support legs and a retaining bar spanning the pair of laterally opposed support legs, the pair of laterally opposed support legs having mounting ends, the mounting ends pivotably mount respectively to the pairs of laterally opposed posts and pivot between open and closed

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positions, the mounting ends also translatably mount respectively to the pairs of laterally opposed posts of the base and translate between an unlocked position distal the pairs of laterally opposed posts of the base and a locked position proximal the pairs of laterally opposed posts of the base; and

a plurality of E-shaped brackets pivotably and translatably mounted to the base, the plurality of E-shaped brackets including first and second E-shaped brackets respectively mounted to the first and second sets of laterally spaced posts of the base, each of the plurality of E-shaped brackets having a set of laterally spaced support legs and a retaining bar spanning the set of laterally spaced support legs, the set of laterally spaced support legs having mounting ends, the mounting ends pivotably mount respectively to the sets of laterally spaced posts and pivot between open and closed positions, the mounting ends also translatably mount respectively to the sets of laterally spaced posts of the base and translate between an unlocked position distal the sets of laterally spaced posts of the base and a locked position proximal the sets of laterally spaced posts of the base;

whereby the plurality of C-shaped brackets are foldable to a first level closed position substantially parallel with the base and the plurality of E-shaped brackets are foldable to a second level closed position over top of the plurality of C-shaped brackets and substantially parallel with the base, such that the organizer occupies a collapsed condition.

13. (Original) A removable, portable, collapsible storage organizer for a cargo area of a motor vehicle, the organizer apparatus comprising:

a base including:

opposed ends with integral handles;

opposed sides, wherein the ends and sides define corners;

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a plurality of outside posts on the base, the plurality of outside posts includes:

a first pair of outside posts in the corners of the base at one of the opposed ends thereof;

a second pair of outside posts in the corners of the base at the other of the opposed ends thereof; and

a third pair of outside posts located between the first and second pairs of outside posts;

the first, second, and third pairs of the plurality of outside posts define a first set of three outside posts located along one of the opposed sides of the base, and further define a second set of three outside posts located along the other of the opposed sides of the base;

a plurality of inside posts on the base and being shorter than the plurality of outside posts, the plurality of inside posts includes:

a first pair of inside posts positioned laterally inside of the first pair of outside posts;

a second pair of inside posts positioned laterally inside of the second pair of outside posts; and

a third pair of inside posts positioned laterally inside of the third pair of outside posts;

a plurality of C-shaped brackets pivotably and translatably mounted to the base, the plurality of C-shaped brackets including first, second, and third C-shaped brackets respectively mounted to the first, second, and third pairs of inside posts of the base, each of the plurality of C-shaped brackets having a pair of laterally opposed support legs and a

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retaining bar spanning the pair of laterally opposed support legs, the pair of laterally opposed support legs having mounting ends, the mounting ends pivotably mount respectively to the pairs of inside posts and pivot between open and closed positions, the mounting ends also translatablely mount respectively to the pairs of inside posts of the base and translate between an unlocked position distal the pairs of inside posts of the base and a locked position proximal the pairs of inside posts of the base; and

a plurality of E-shaped brackets pivotably and translatablely mounted to the base, the plurality of E-shaped brackets including first and second E-shaped brackets respectively mounted to the first and second sets of laterally spaced posts of the base, each of the plurality of E-shaped brackets having three laterally spaced support legs and a retaining bar spanning the three laterally spaced support legs, the three laterally spaced support legs having mounting ends that pivotably mount between open and closed positions and to the respective sets of laterally spaced posts, the mounting ends translatablely mount respectively to the sets of outside posts of the base and between an unlocked position distal the sets of outside posts of the base and a locked position proximal the sets of outside posts of the base;

whereby the plurality of C-shaped brackets are foldable to a closed position substantially parallel with the base and the plurality of E-shaped brackets are foldable to a closed position over top of the plurality of C-shaped brackets and substantially parallel with the base, such that the organizer occupies a collapsed condition.

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14. (New) A cargo apparatus comprising:

a base having at least one end and at least one side, the at least one end having at least one laterally inside post extending therefrom, the at least one side having at least one laterally outside post extending therefrom, wherein the at least one laterally outside post is positioned laterally outside with respect to the at least one laterally inside post;

at least one end retaining bracket pivotably and translatably mounted to the at least one laterally inside post between open and closed positions; and

at least one side retaining bracket pivotably and translatably mounted to the at least one laterally outside post between open and closed positions.